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January 30, 2003 3:00 PM

VIA HAND DELIVERY

TN REGULATORY AUTHORITY  
DOCKET NO. 02-01300

Mr. Joe Werner  
Tennessee Regulatory Authority  
460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243

Re: Application of Texas HomeTel, Inc., d/b/a 877 Ring Again  
for Amended Authority to Provide Facilities-Based Local Exchange  
Telecommunications Services; Docket No. 02-01300

Dear Mr. Werner:

This letter is in response to the request for additional information you made in regard to the CLEC application of Texas HomeTel, Inc., d/b/a 877 Ring Again ("Ring Again" or "Applicant"). Ring Again is proposing to offer prepaid, facilities-based, local exchange service. The Applicant responds as follows to each of the stated requests for information.

**TRA Request:** 1. If applicable, Applicants involvement in pertinent mergers, acquisitions, etc?

**Response:** The Applicant has not been involved in any mergers or acquisitions.

**TRA Request:** 2. Are customer deposits required? If yes, what is the required deposit amount? Is the Applicant bonded for the amount of the deposits?

**Response:** The company does not collect customer deposits. The company proposes to offer the same services under a facilities-based UNE-P plan as it currently offers today to residential customers in Tennessee on a resale basis --- prepaid local exchange service. The company offers service on a month-to-month basis and collects payment for the service prior to commencing service.

**TRA Request:** 3. Identify the type of complaints filed with state and federal regulatory agencies involving your Company or affiliated entities. Identify the nature of the complaint, which governmental agency or office received the complaint, and how was the complaint resolved.

**Response:** The company operates in Tennessee (as a local reseller), Oklahoma, Missouri, Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi and South Carolina. In 2001, the company received 2 complaints, both through the Texas PSC. In 2002, the company received 3 complaints, also only in Texas. The company has never received a complaint through the

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FCC. The complaints have all been regarding phone service not being turned on when scheduled. There have been no complaints regarding rates, nor have there been any slamming complaints. All complaints were resolved immediately and to the satisfaction of all parties.

**TRA Request:** Note: according to TRA Rule 1220-8-.04(2)(c)(4)[sic], a CLEC is required to provide equal access to authorized Inter and IntraLATA long distance provider (sic), unless otherwise exempted by the Commission ("Authority"). On page 10 of the submitted application, it stated "The company does not provide access to toll services. The company will only offer prepaid local exchange service that is toll-blocked. If in the future the company chooses to provide local exchange service that is not prepaid and toll-blocked, the company understands it must file a toll dialing parity plan at least 60 days prior to such offering." Please clarify Texas HomeTel, Inc. d/b/a 877 Ring Again's position on this issue considering TRA's aforementioned rule.

**Response:** The Applicant is nondiscriminatory in that it provides the same access to all long distance carriers, i.e., all toll services are blocked. As the agency is aware, this is a common practice in the industry, as other local exchange carriers initiate toll blocking when a customer fails to pay its long distance bills. The intent of Rule 1220-4-8-.04(3)(c)(4) is to prevent a local exchange carrier from providing preferred access to one long distance carrier over other carriers. The Applicant's practice of blocking all toll calls does not discriminate in favor of any toll carrier over others.

We trust this addresses your questions on the application. If you have questions regarding this matter, or if you require additional information, please give me a call at 252-2302.

Very truly yours,

BOULT, CUMMINGS, CONNERS & BERRY, PLC



By:

April A. Ingram

AAI/aai

cc: Monique Byrnes, Technology Management, Inc.  
Keith Carter, Texas HomeTel, Inc., d/b/a 877 Ring Again